

# **IEEE** *The Open Channel*

Newsletter for the Hampton Roads Section of the IEEE  
The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.

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January 2006

## 2006 Annual Student Paper Presentations

Speakers: Students from  
ECPI, Christopher Newport University, Hampton University, Norfolk State University,  
and Old Dominion University



**Date/Time:** Thursday, January 26, 2005 at 6:30 PM

**Location:** Freeman Center [<http://freemancenter.cnu.edu/>]

Christopher Newport University

1 University Place

Newport News, VA 23606

+1 757 594 7000

**Cost:** Members and guests \$20; Students \$10

The Hampton Roads Section will be sponsoring the 2006 Annual Student Paper Presentations. Students from local colleges are invited to present topics on research and innovations. Prizes will be awarded to the three best presentations. Faculty and guests are welcomed to attend. Come hear what our college engineers are researching today.

**Reservations:** Please forward RSVP to Kurt Clemente [+1 757 676 6004, [kurt.clemente@ieee.org](mailto:kurt.clemente@ieee.org)] or William LaBelle [+1 757 619 9050, +1 757 421 8695, [w.labelle@ieee.org](mailto:w.labelle@ieee.org)].

**Checks:** Checks should be made out to IEEE and brought to the meeting.

### Directions:

See page 3

### 2006 Hampton Roads Section Officers – William LaBelle

In case you missed the November 2005 meeting the Hampton Roads Section officers for 2006 are:

Brent Phillips, Chair

Kurt Clemente, Vice Chair

Dan Ulinski, Treasurer

We are in search of a new secretary.

To reach the officers send an email to [officers-r3-hamptonroads@ieee.org](mailto:officers-r3-hamptonroads@ieee.org).

### Upcoming Meetings

Jan 26 Student Papers

Feb 16 TBD

Mar 16 TBD

Apr 20 TBD

May 18 TBD

### Inside this Open Channel

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All materials for THE OPEN CHANNEL are due by the 22<sup>th</sup> day of the month preceding the issue month. Address all correspondence to:

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## From the Chair Another Ticker Tape Parade...



Wow, what an honor it is to serve as Chair this coming year, 2006. Thank you all, both the Membership and Executive Committee, for this opportunity. I have some big footsteps to follow... Bill Clayton, Tim Gavin, and Dr. William Edmonson just to name a few of the most recent. I will attempt to uphold the standard of service set before me.

Many of you probably do not know me. So let me briefly introduce myself. My name is Brent Phillips and I have been an IEEE member since 1999. My recruiter was F. M. Williams, a wonderful and challenging professor at Old Dominion University at the time. Now would be the perfect time to thank him for both sharing this organization with me and his guidance through school. I have been active with the local Section for approximately 3 years. I would have been active sooner, but newsletters were always arriving too late (the day of or the day after the meeting) for me to schedule time to attend the meetings. A BIG THANKS to Bill Labelle for coordinating the newsletter circulation with the printers and post office. I have previously served as both Secretary and Vice-Chair. I am currently employed by Clark Nexsen in Norfolk. This is a full service A & E (Architecture & Engineering) firm. I am a licensed Electrical Professional Engineer (fall '04) in the State of Virginia and an active member of IES (Illuminating Engineering Society). In my career, I look towards IES for lighting information and IEEE for power and communication information. Great resources are not to be overlooked or abandoned, but utilized.

This leads us to the next point of interest. What are my goals as the Chair for 2006? They are simple. Many great programs have been started or maintained over the recent years. I do not see a need to begin anything new, but support and strengthen what has already begun. The first priority (after family, life, and work) is to maintain interesting and relevant technical presentations at our monthly meetings. Good food and good fellowship (networking) should accompany this as it has in the past. If you encounter a topic of technical interest to you, then most likely it would interest other members. Feel free to send me or anyone else on the Executive Committee an email to initiate research on the topic and to start locating possible speakers. If you have a presentation that may benefit the membership, then please let us know that you are willing to share it with the group. The hardest experience that I have encountered in setting up presentations has been trying to guess what the membership would enjoy or benefit from the most. Our organization is so diverse. Another hot priority that recent emphasis has been placed upon is The TISP (Teacher In-Service Program) where engineers teach the teachers. This has been brought about due to the lagging interest in science and engineering among K – 12 students. Let's face the truth, the majority of us are not teachers and would not be able to effectively teach the students as well as the teachers. We actually do not teach the teachers. We demonstrate the science projects that IEEE has developed and relate how each aspect of the project can be applied to those dreaded SOL (Standards Of Learning) tests. We essentially become a resource for the teacher. The Educational Activities Chair is vacant if anyone is interested in leading this endeavor. Support is

there from Mr. Gonzales and Dr. Aftab. Mr. Gonzales is assisting with a local middle school and Dr. Aftab is assisting with a local high school. Many thanks are heaped upon them for taking ownership of this task at their respective adopted schools. Another available opportunity is the position of the Secretary. If anyone is interested in becoming involved, please contact me. We are all volunteers and this is an excellent opportunity to become involved in our professional organization. The best scenario I could hope for is 25 people offering an hour or two a month behind the scenes instead of a few people squeezing out 10 or 15 hours. Currently, there are almost 20 people working behind the scenes towards various goals, but there is always room for more interested people.

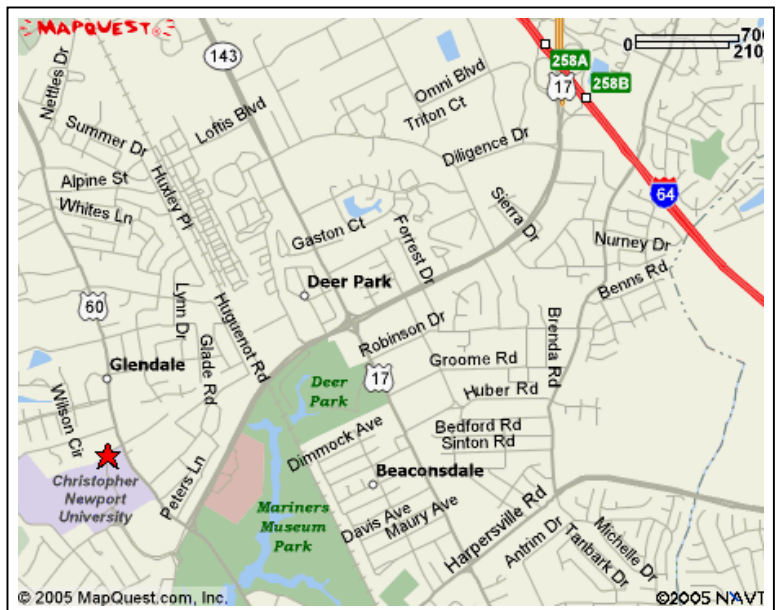
I will expand on the other existing goals in future letters throughout the year. I hope the holidays have been great for everyone. I look forward to catching up with everyone at the monthly meetings this year. This month is our annual student presentation contest and will be held at Christopher Newport University. If you have available time, please join us to see what our college students are researching. Although these presentations do not always apply to my career directly, I always find them intellectually stimulating. I hope you will, too.

Brent D. Phillips, PE  
 2006 Chair  
 Hampton Roads Section  
[bphillips@ieee.org](mailto:bphillips@ieee.org)

**Directions to Christopher Newport University:**

1. I-64 Exit 258-A J. Clyde Morris Boulevard South (Rt. 17).
2. Continue straight and cross Warwick Boulevard.
3. The street becomes *Avenue of the Arts* (formerly Museum Drive).
4. Bear to your right on *Avenue of the Arts*.
5. Turn right out of the roundabout and into the University.
6. Park in the parking lot to your right (Lot I - faculty parking - blue decals)

For additional directions visit the CNU 'Getting There' web page at <http://about.cnu.edu/visitingCampus/gettingHere.cfm>. Also checkout <http://parking.cnu.edu/pmap.html> for a detailed campus map



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**Membership Renewal Reminder**

A new year is here. Have you renewed your membership?

All members are again being urged to renew online, as this method provides more timely service and greater accuracy in member records. It also helps IEEE to hold down its costs.

The online renewal process is fast, easy to use, and immediate. We encourage everyone to please renew early at: <http://www.ieee.org/renew>.

Members can register for a Web Account at: <http://www.ieee.org/web/accounts>.

**Region 3 Websites**

- R3 Web Site: <http://www.ewh.ieee.org/reg/3/>  
 ETI Web Site: <http://ie3eti.eng.uab.edu/>  
 ETI Authorization: [eti-info@eng.uab.edu](mailto:eti-info@eng.uab.edu)

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## EWeek 2006

**National Engineers Week**, or more commonly E-week, is fast approaching. The 54<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of National Engineers Week will be observed February 19-25, 2006. The Engineers Week 2006 Co-chairs are the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and Northrop Grumman Corporation, aim to build on the extensive record of other EWeek programs to connect with students from kindergarten through high school. The middle school years are a particularly prime time to reach students with math and science education so they are prepared for the high school courses necessary to pursue engineering in college. More information may be found at [www.eweek.org](http://www.eweek.org).

There are numerous activities around the Hampton Roads area related to Engineers Week. Most of the events are long-standing traditional events. For the professionals there are the banquets held to honor personal (usually life-time) and organizational achievements. Then for young the engineering societies sponsor various competitions. However, not all of the events are held during Engineers Week. Many are held during months preceding or following the Engineers Week.

Watch the local newspapers for announcements on these annual activities:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| NASA Career Days   | Egg Drop Contest (ASME)                             |
| ODU Engineering Open House                               | MathCounts  |
| Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet (VSPE, ASCE, ECHR) | PEC Engineer of the Year Banquet (PEC), February 25 |

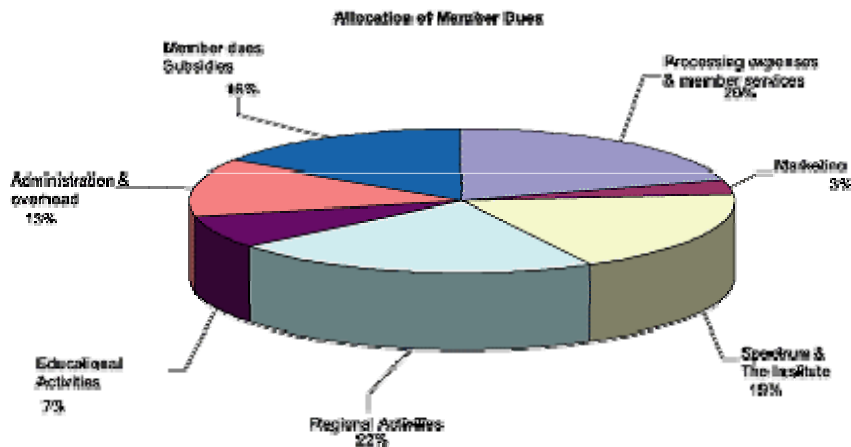
Contact me at [w.labelle@ieee.org](mailto:w.labelle@ieee.org) if you have information on upcoming EWeek related activities. Information for the event should include description or title, date, sponsor(s), and contact. The announcement can include expanded information such as historical references about the event, elaboration on each sponsoring group, website, etc.

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## Where Does Your Dues Money Go? - MICHAEL BINDER

*Ed. Note* – This article was written by Michael Binder, Director of IEEE Membership, in December 2003. The information contained herein is still valid. At the Fall Region 3 EXCOM the sections of Region 3 have asked William Harrison, Director Region 3, to request an update.

During the membership renewal period each year, which is currently in progress, members often ask what their basic dues of US\$113 pays for. Here is a breakdown of the activities that are supported by dues.



### Regional Activities (22%)

[Regional Activities](#) serves the geographic organization of the IEEE — the 10 IEEE regions, 304 sections, 1378 chapters, 1209 student branches and 110 affinity groups (such as Women in Engineering). Included in the 22 percent is money that the IEEE returns to these units to support their operations. For example, a section receives a US\$3 to \$4 rebate for each member (depending on grade), including student members. Student branches receive \$2 for each student member. The Regional Activities budget also includes funds for the volunteer Regional Activities Board, section, and chapter support operations, student services, and the activities involved with admitting new members and advancing the grade of existing members, known as Admissions and Advancement.

### Processing and Member Services expenses (20%)

This covers the costs associated with printing, mailing, and processing more than 400 000 annual renewals and approximately 70 000 new member applications. The IEEE has taken many steps in recent years to help control these

costs, such as putting [member applications](#) and [renewal forms](#) online. Also included here are the costs for operating the [Member Services department](#), which handles member calls and e-mail inquiries, and resolves complaints and problems.

### **Spectrum and The Institute (19%)**

All members receive [IEEE Spectrum](#) magazine every month, as well as print issues of [The Institute](#) four times a year. Members also have access to the online editions of both these publications. Members' dues support less than half the cost of producing these publications; the rest comes from revenue generated by the sale of advertising space and individual subscriptions by [IEEE Spectrum](#).

[Spectrum](#) also manages the [IEEE job site](#) where members can post their résumés or search for a job.

### **Member dues subsidies (16%)**

The IEEE provides [membership dues at a reduced rate](#) for students, unemployed or low-income members, retirees and others. The dues for more than one-third of IEEE's membership is subsidized through one of these discounts.

### **Administration and overhead (13%)**

Like other organizations, the IEEE has infrastructure costs for such items as information technology systems, legal expenses, facilities maintenance, the mailroom, corporate management, and research.

Embedded in this budget are several important member benefits. The [IEEE member e-mail alias](#) benefit is part of the information technology budget, and so are many expenses associated with providing access for members to IEEE's technical content through the [IEEE Xplore](#) electronic publishing delivery platform.

### **Educational Activities (7%)**

This department serves members and the profession through a broad scope of educational programs, and promotes technological literacy for students worldwide. [Educational Activities](#) is responsible for accreditation activities of engineering and computer technology programs in U.S. universities and assists with establishing accreditation systems around the world

Educational Activities also helps engineers meet licensing requirements by offering continuing education units to those attending society and section workshops and tutorials. The Educational Activities budget also supports the activities of the volunteer Educational Activities Board and its related committees.

### **Marketing expenses (3%)**

To attract new members and retain existing ones, the IEEE uses a portion of dues money to support a variety of marketing programs. These programs promote the value of membership and the organization's products and services. To these ends, the IEEE buys [advertising](#) space in leading trade magazines, organizes direct-mail recruitment campaigns, conducts a program to collect unpaid dues, and also performs research about members and prospective members to better understand their needs.

As you can see, members' dues supports the IEEE's mission through a wide range of activities and programs. The organization continually looks for ways to improve and enhance its membership offerings. Ideas from members are always welcome Contact me at [m.binder@ieee.org](mailto:m.binder@ieee.org).

### **How To Read Your Renewal Invoice**

In addition to answers to questions about where the basic dues money goes, members often want an explanation about the other charges that appear on their renewal invoice. Here is a breakdown.

Every member's renewal bill has four components:

- IEEE dues
- Regional assessments and IEEE-USA
- Society dues
- Optional subscriptions

The first two components, IEEE dues and regional assessments, are combined into a single amount because both must be paid to maintain membership. Basic dues — US\$113 in 2004 — cover your annual membership and goes to IEEE. Regional assessments, which range from zero to \$15, depending on location, go to your IEEE geographic region. U.S. members are charged an additional \$34 to support IEEE-USA.

The third component, society dues, range from \$9 to \$42 and are used to support the activities of the societies you have joined, including any journals, magazines, or newsletters that are included with membership.

Finally, your renewal invoice also will include charges for optional IEEE publications you subscribe to.